

Remarks/Arguments

Responsive to the objection to the drawings,  
proposed drawing corrections are enclosed. In  
particular, Figs. 8a, 8b and 8c are corrected to provide  
5 lead lines for the reference numerals, the crosshatch  
has been removed from Fig. 6b and Fig. 5c is corrected  
to include the reference numerals 26, 28, 29 and 30.

The specification is amended to include  
headings and to correct the informalities on pages 7 and  
10 8 referenced by the Examiner.

Responsive to the objections to the claims,  
claims 20 has been amended and claims 2-6, 10 and 13-18  
have been cancelled. Contrary to the Examiner's  
conclusion, dependent claims 24 and 36 are believed to  
15 add further subject matter in relation to their  
respective parent claims and reconsideration of the  
objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 have been cancelled to be  
consistent with applicant's Preliminary Amendment filed  
20 December 19, 2001.

The provisional allowance of claims 8, 21, 22  
and 37 is acknowledged with appreciation. In this  
correction, claims 8, 22 and 37 have been rewritten in  
independent form as new claims 46, 47 and 48  
25 respectively, and favorable action on these new claims  
is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 20,  
23-31, 34-36, 38, 41, 42 and 44 under 35 USC 102 in view

of Munley et al is respectfully requested for the following reasons. In the pipe clamping device disclosed by Munley et al a bearing member 106 is located between nut 104 and surface 64 of retainer 20.

5 Accordingly, in Munley et al surface 64 of retainer 20 does not mate directly with nut 104 and surface 64 does not contact nut 104. Independent claim 20 of the instant application is amended to emphasize this distinction over Munley et al.

10 Independent claims 23, 35 and 44 are amended to point out that the seat on the clamp member is integrally formed thereon. Neither of the retainer elements 20 nor 22 in Munley et al has a seat integrally formed thereon in the manner claimed by applicant.

15 Independent claim 42 is amended to point out that the first and second clamp members are pivotally engaged directly to each other in a snap-fit relation. In the Munley et al device the retainer elements are not pivotally engaged directly to each other. Instead, the  
20 retainer elements 20 and 22 are separately connected to a hinge assembly 24. Furthermore, the retainer elements 20 and 22 are not engaged in a snap-fit relation. Instead, the retainer elements 20 and 22 are connected to a link via pivot pins 92.

25 In view of the foregoing, claims 20, 23-31, 34, 36, 38, 41, 42 and 44 as amended are believed to patentably distinguish over Munley et al within the meaning of 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103.

30 Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 32, 33, 39, 40, 43 and 45 under 35 USC 103 in view of Munley

et al is respectfully requested for the following reasons. Dependent claims 32, 33, 39 and 40 include all the limitations of amended independent claims 23 and 35, respectively, which are believed to patentably  
5 distinguish over Munley et al under 35 USC 103 for the reasons given above. Independent claim 43 calls for projections which extend from the second end of one of the first and second parts and prevent overclosing of the clamp. These are the projections 37 shown in Figs.  
10 3a, 3e and 5d and described on page 9, lines 18-20 of the instant application. The Munley et al clamping device does not include projections extending from either of the retainer elements 20, 22 for preventing overclosing of the clamping device.

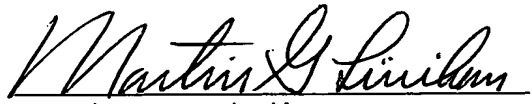
15 Independent claim 45 is amended in a manner similar to that of claim 20 and is believed to patentably distinguish over Munley et al under 35 USC 103 for the same reasons given above in connection with claim 20. Accordingly, claims 32, 33, 39, 40, 43 and 45  
20 are believed to patentably distinguish over Munley et al within the meaning of 35 USC 103.

It is respectfully requested that the references cited in applicant's Information Disclosure Statement filed December 19, 2001 be made of record in  
25 the instant application.

Favorable action on this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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